

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced it will release nearly \$3 billion in funds for public housing agencies, including more than \$2 million for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. The Public Housing Capital Fund provides money for Public Housing Agencies, including modernization and development efforts of public housing facilities.

"The funds for our public housing agencies will provide more construction jobs, while at the same time upgrading our low-income housing facilities," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "With real estate prices still higher than the national average and our economy faltering, there are many families who find it difficult to find housing. It's vital that we make sure the Central Coast is not unfriendly to middle-class workers, and a big part of that is offering affordable housing."

Local Housing Authorities that will be receiving funds:

- County of Monterey Housing Authority, \$1,617,261
- Santa Cruz County Housing Authority, \$511,726

An example of local work expected from the Recovery Act: the Monterey County Housing Authority plans to divide funds between Housing Authority positions and repair work. The agency expects repair projects to create 20 construction jobs and another eight part-time positions for area youth. Work is expected to begin next month.

"This is an excellent opportunity to not only improve the quality of public housing but to assist in providing positive work experience to our area youth." Said Alan Styles, board chair of the Monterey County Housing Authority.

A total of \$2.985 billion will flow to public housing programs throughout the nation. Funding is expected to provide employment for thousands of construction workers and modernize tens of thousands of public housing units. Funding priority was given to projects that are ready to begin construction rapidly, along with projects that will increase energy efficiency and lower the long term costs of operating public housing.

"President Obama has given us the mandate to put this money to work quickly so it can make a real difference in the lives of Americans," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "HUD is working overtime to get this money to our housing authorities so they can repair and produce critically needed affordable housing, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for their residents."

For more information on this and other HUD projects in the Recovery Act, visit <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>.

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